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REVIEW OF ECA ACTIVITIES IN 1984-1985 AND WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1986-1987 IN FAVOUR OF AFRICAN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. During the biennium 1984-1985 individual African Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in one way or another benefitted from the various secretariat activities including: the provision of technical advisory services, under the regular work programme for the biennium 1984-1985; in-depth studies of development issues identified by the governments individually or as a group as well as by the secretariat; dissemination of information through publications of which the Annual Survey of Economic Conditions in the African LDCs is an exmple; substantive servicing of conferences, meetings, seminars, workshops, training courses or being represented at meetings such as the United Nations Interagency Consultations and Country Round Tables at which matters of interest to the African LDCs are discussed; follow-up action on resolutions adopted by the Conference of Ministers of African LDCs; services rendered by other substantive divisions of the secretariat in the fields of food and agriculture, industry, statistics, population, natural resources (mineral resources, cartography, water resources), energy, resources of the sea, science and technology, transport and communications, international trade and finance, economic co-operation and integration, human settlements, environment, public administration, management and manpower and Social development.

2. In addition to the highlighting in the following paragraphs of the beneficiaries of the secretariat activities in the various fields indicated above, the Work Programme for 1986-1987 in favour of the African LDCs as recently approved by the 40th session of the UN General Assembly is indicated.

II. ACTIVITIES IN FAVOUR OF AFRICAN LDCs UNDER DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES

Technical advisory services

3. During the review period 1984-1985 and upon the specific requests of concerned governments, the secretariat mounted field missions to a number of countries to provide technical advisory services of varying forms. Among those benefitting from such services were: Benin, Mali, Rwanda, Burkina-Faso, Togo, Chad and Sao Tome and Principe.

In-depth studies on the economies of the African LDCs

4. As part of its regular work programme in favour of the African LDCs, the secretariat carried out four basic studies during 1984-1985 including (i) and (ii) Review of Economic and Social Conditions in African LDCs for 1981-1983 and 1981-1984 (E/ECA/LDCs.4/2 and E/ECA/LDCs.5/2); (iii) Regional evaluation and

assessment of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in African LDCs, 1981-1984 (E/ECA/LDCs.5/3); and (iv) The extent of industrial capacity under-utilization and its impact on industrial development in African LDCs (E/ECA/LDCs.5/4).

Conferences, meetings and seminars

5. The studies were used by the secretariat as final outputs to service the third and fourth meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of African LDCs held at Addis Ababa from 9-12 May 1984 and 11-13 April 1985 respectively as well as the fourth and fifth meetings of the Conference of Ministers of African LDCs held at the same venue from 22-24 May 1984 and 23-24 April 1985 respectively.

6. The secretariat was represented at a seminar held at the Nairobi Trade Centre on the development of foreign aid in the African LDCs organized by UNCTAD in collaboration with it.

7. The secretariat presented two papers on "the development crisis in the African LDCs" and "Trade among Sub-Saharan countries: current flows and future prospects". Among the LDCs benefitting from the seminar were: Botswana, Ethiopia, Gambia, Lesotho, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

8. The secretariat was also represented at six other important meetings at which matters of interest to the African LDCs were discussed. These meetings include: Third UN interagency consultation, Geneva, Switzerland, 9-10 April 1984; Fourth UN interagency consultation, same venue, from 11 to 12 February 1985; Fifth UN interagency consultation, Geneva, Switzerland, 29 April 1985; Meeting of Governmental Group on the Least Developed Countries and Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with Representatives of the LDCs, Geneva, Switzerland, 1-10 May 1985; and UNCTAD's sixth session of the Intergovernmental Group on the LDCs for the Mid-term Global Review of the SNPA, Geneva, Switzerland, 30 September-11 October 1985.

III. OTHER ECA ACTIVITIES IN FAVOUR OF AFRICAN LDCs

9. During the review period, the African LDCs also benefitted either directly or indirectly from the services rendered by other ECA substantive Divisions in their various areas of activities such as technical advisory services, studies, training workshops, fellowships awards etc. as follows:

Food and agriculture

10. Among the African LDCs benefitting from the activities carried out under this heading were: Chad, Ethiopia, Sao Tome and Principe, Uganda, Togo, Rwanda and Burundi.

Industrial development

11. The beneficiaries of the secretariat services in the industrial development field included: Benin, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Gambia, Burundi, Rwanda, Djibouti and Comoros.

Statistics

12. The secretariat carried out activities in the fields of demographic statistics, African Household Survey Capacity Programme, industrial statistics, trade statistics, national accounts and statistical training. Among the beneficiaries were: Benin, Burkina-Faso, Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.

African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW)

13. Among the beneficiaries of the activities of the ATRCW were: Comoros, Tanzania, Burkina-Faso, Sierra Leone, Togo, Botswana, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Somalia, Uganda, Gambia, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Chad, Niger, Djibouti and Central African Republic.

Natural resources (minerals, water, cartography)

14. Among the beneficiaries of the secretariat services rendered in various ways in the natural resources field were: Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Burkina-Faso, Tanzania, Guinea, Benin, Mali, Niger, Togo and Somalia.

Science and technology

15. The beneficiaries of the secretariat services in science and technology included: Comoros, Rwanda, Central African Republic and Niger.

Energy

16. Those benefitting under this programme include: Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Niger, Sierra Leone, Comoros, Benin, Chad, Central African Republic, Guinea, Uganda, Lesotho and Malawi.

International trade and finance

17. The African LDCs benefitting under this heading included: Burundi, Central African Republic, Togo, Comoros, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Sudan, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Benin, Burkina-Faso, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia, Botswana, Gambia, Equatorial Guinea, and Djibouti.

Transport and communications

18. The beneficiaries differed according to modes of transport as follows: General transport: Benin, Botswana, Burkina-Faso, Burundi, Gambia, Guinea, Malawi and Niger; Maritime transport: Benin, Botswana, Cape Verde, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Sao Tome and Principe, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda; Roads: Chad, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Tanzania; Railways: Burkina-Faso and Mali; Air transport: Rwanda, Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger and Tanzania; Communications: Tanzania, Botswana, Benin, Burundi, Burkina-Faso, Gambia, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

Human settlements

19. Among the beneficiaries of the secretariat activities under this heading were: Burundi, Rwanda, Benin, Botswana, Togo, Burkina-Faso, Guinea, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Tanzania, Malawi, Niger, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Uganda.

Public administration, management and manpower

20. The activities of the secretariat under this heading varied from national workshops to technical advisory services and among the many beneficiaries, were: Malawi, Gambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, Botswana, Somalia, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Comoros, Benin, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Djibouti, Rwanda, Togo, Sierra Leone, Burkina-Faso and Guinea.

IV. WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1986-1987 IN FAVOUR OF THE AFRICAN LDCs

21. As recently approved by the 40th Session of the UN General Assembly the following will constitute the secretariat's regular work programme in favour of the African LDCs during the period 1986-1987:

Development issues and policies

SUBPROGRAMME 3: LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

3.1 Technical assistance to least developed countries

Output: Advisory services to African least developed countries, on request, in planning, programming and project preparation (three missions in 1986; three in 1987).

3.2 Review of economic and social conditions in individual least developed African countries*

Output: Reports to the Conference of Ministers of Least Developed Countries on a review of economic and social conditions in individual least developed African countries (second quarters, 1986 and 1987).

3.3 Follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries in the African region

Output: Reports to the Conference of Ministers of Least Developed African Countries on the follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in the least developed African countries (second quarters, 1986 and 1987).

3.4 In-depth studies on the economies of least developed African countries

Output:

(i) Report to the Conference of Ministers of Least Developed African Countries on drought and food strategies in Africa (second quarter, 1986);

(ii) Report to the Conference of Ministers of Least Developed African Countries on quantitative analysis of the implications of structural adjustment and stabilization programmes on long-term growth and development in least developed African countries (second quarter, 1987).

3.5 Conference of Ministers of Least Developed African Countries*

Output: Substantive servicing of the meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of Least Developed African Countries and the fifth and sixth Conference of Ministers of Least Developed African Countries (second quarters, 1986 and 1987).

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* Highest priority